

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-20 are pending in this application. Claims 7-12, 15 and 18-20 stand withdrawn. By this Amendment, the specification and abstract are amended, claims 1 and 3-20 are amended and claim 2 is canceled. Claims 1 and 4 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. Claims 1 and 3-20 are amended for improved clarity. Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in that claim. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-20 are pending in this application, and claims 7-12, 15 and 18-20 have been previously withdrawn as drawn to a non-elected species. The features positively recited in claims 7-12, 15 and 18-20, depend from claim 4, either directly or indirectly, and, as such, inherit all of the features of independent claim 4. Therefore, upon allowance of claims 1, 3-6, 13, 14, 16 and 17, rejoinder and allowance of claims 7-12, 15, and 18-20 are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives during the March 10, 2009 personal interview by Examiner Torres. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the personal interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action objects to the specification because the Abstract includes the word "said" in the second to last line of the Abstract. An amended Abstract is attached to obviate this objection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 13, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-6, 13, 14, 16 and 17 are amended to obviate this rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6, 13, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 13, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,068,081 to Capdepuy et al. ("Capdepuy"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 as amended recites, among other features, a process to damp and filter the amplitude of mechanically-originated vibrations of a structure to be uncoupled, wherein an incident vibratory weight is filtered with damping by absorbing a filtered vibratory wave transmitted over a frequency and a mechanical load amplitude that is applied to the structure; and a plurality of suspension assemblies are each mounted in series between two elements of the structure with a damping device mounted in parallel to the suspension assembly. Claim 4 as amended recites similar features.

By contrast, Capdepuy merely teaches, at col. 4, lines 32-40, and Fig. 3, that structural units 8 are incorporated in a simple parallel device between two elements, incident surface 3 and radiating surface 5. For instance, Capdepuy, in Fig. 8, merely teaches multiple individual devices that are in parallel rather than a plurality of structures that are each mounted in series. Therefore, there is nothing in Capdepuy that can reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, that the parallel structure shown in Fig. 3 is integrated into a series structure as recited in independent claims 1 and 4.

For at least the foregoing reason, Capdepuy cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combinations of all of the features recited in independent claims 1 and 4. Further, dependent claims 3, 5, 6, 13, 14, 16 and 17 would also not have been anticipated by Capdepuy for at least the respective dependence of these claims on independent claims 1 and 4, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Applicants' representatives presented the above arguments to Examiner Torres during the March 10 personal interview. The Examiner agreed that amending the claims in the manner proposed during the personal interview would overcome the pending rejection over Capdepuy.

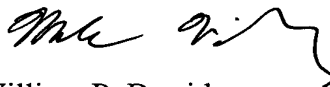
The Examiner also indicated she would consider Applicants' position upon submission of a formal response.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 13, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Capdepuy are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-6, 13, 14, 16 and 17, and rejoinder and allowance of withdrawn claims 7-12, 15 and 18-20, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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